



ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING FINAL REPLAY

SUPER LIMERICK STORM TO GLORY

By SEAN MURPHY

Limerick2-5
Kilkenny2-4

BRAVO, LIMERICK minor hurlers! Fuelled by a passionate desire for success, they stormed back when all seemed lost at Semple Stadium, Thurles, on Sunday to reach their oasis, when with tidal wave ferocity they finally brushed aside the stern Kilkenny challenge to win the All-Ireland minor hurling final replay in dramatic fashion after a bewildering exhibition of hurling.

It was Limerick's 3rd title in this grade and their first since 1958. It was an occasion that will certainly be savoured by the huge Limerick following in the attendance estimated at 10,000.

In stark contrast to the drawn clash when Limerick were streets the better team, it was Kilkenny on this occasion who showed the class and edged into the lead.

Those rippling black and amber players showed terrier-like tenacity and darted at the ball like arrows from the archer's bow. They gave Limerick a chastening lesson in first time striking and combination and their no nonsense pulling certainly had the Shannonsiders struggling to find their rhythm.

But a refusal to succumb is a salient characteristic of this Limerick team, and they epitomised that forcefully by soaking up all the pressure that Kilkenny could throw at them, and then rallied their sagging forces to fashion a never to be forgotten success.

Turbulent

Limerick found themselves in turbulent waters from the outset, as Kilkenny pressured them in all sectors with crisp striking and amazing zest.

Gary Kirby was wide with a free from an easy position before Kilkenny scorched into a disturbing lead. The Limerick defence were completely at sea trying to cope with the nifty Kilkenny forwards.

Distinct signs of anxiety surfaced in the Limerick defence, with Andy Cuneen having a nightmare trying to put the shackles on the elusive Pat McEvoy.

Up in attack the fluidity of their movements was disrupted anytime they moved on the break by the magnificence of the Kilkenny defence in which Frank Morgan and Bosco Brien were outstanding.

Gradually with Mike Reale and Anthony Carmody winning the lion's share of possession in the midfield, Limerick began to come more into the game, but received few breaks.

Spectacular

Limerick edged back firmly in contention in the 8th minute when following a sideline puck by Mike Reale, Pat Davoren expertly doubled on overhead for a spectacular goal.

Gary Kirby equalised from a free in the 9th minute, but again it was Kilkenny who forced the issue with first time tactics and amazing exuberance.

Val Murnane made a mighty save at the expense of a 65 in the 10th minute, but McEvoy was wide of target, and was also wide from a free shortly afterwards.



Brian Stapleton, Limerick, challenges, Kilkenny goalkeeper, Stan McCormack.

In the 17th minute Val Murnane was perhaps a little too courageous coming off his line in a bid to prevent a Kilkenny goal. In a scintillating movement initiated by Pat McEvoy, John Power set up Walter Purcell who evaded John Fitzgerald easily to shoot past the advancing Murnane.

Ger Hegarty was now switched on Pat McEvoy and the fiery Old Christians player adroitly curbed the menacing threat caused by the right winger.

In the 24th minute Gary Kirby cutely picked up a sideline puck by Ger Hegarty to land a point, and then Colm Coughlan was introduced in place of Tony Byrnes.

Just before half-time Kilkenny exerted fierce pressure on Limerick and wily corner-forward, Liam Dowling, picked off two nice points from play to leave Kilkenny leading by 2-3 to 1-2 at half-time.

Anthony Carmody was wide from a field free early on resuming, as the exchanges were still fast and furious.

Colm Coughlan had a Limerick point in the 5th minute, but the Kilkenny captain, Tom Lennon, still at centre-forward, raised a Kilkenny white flag in the 9th minute. Amazingly, this turned out to be Kilkenny's only score in the second half.

Super save

The Kilkenny 'keeper made a super save in the 12th minute to prevent what appeared to be a certain Limerick goal. The excitement knew no bounds now as play ranged up and down the field.

Limerick were playing with new found assurance and composure with the defence now rocklike. Brian Stapleton reduced the deficit with a point in the 18th minute and this magnificent replay was precariously poised on a knife edge of suspense ten minutes from the end when Gus Ryan snapped up a point from play.

Urged on by their huge Limerick following, the Phil Bennis trained charges launched a tremendous bid for victory.

With Mike Reale and Anthony Carmody gripping the reins of control at midfield the turning point in this stirring struggle came seven minutes from the end.

Anthony Carmody did trojan work in the build-up before Gary Kirby, now at full-forward, parted to substitute Declan Marron, who crashed home the golden goal.

Courageously Kilkenny refused to wilt but the Limerick defence, especially the half-back line, stood like an impregnable barrier which never looked like being breached as this memorable contest ran its exciting course.

Limerick had two chances to consolidate their position, but Gary Kirby was wide from a

free and Brian Stapleton also fluffed a good chance before referee Frank Murphy finally halted proceedings.

For Limerick the full-back line of Anthony Madden, Pat Barry and John Fitzgerald, after early uncertainty, played a vital role in the triumph, with Madden really outstanding.

Ger Hegarty and Anthony O'Riordan were outstanding throughout, while Andy Cuneen came into his own in the second half. Anthony Carmody and Mike Reale were majestic while in attack substitutes Colm Coughlan and Declan Marron contributed immensely to this long awaited success, backing up the fine work of Gary Kirby, Gus Ryan, Tony Byrnes, Pat Davoren, John O'Neill and Brian Stapleton on a day when scores were a scarce commodity.

For Kilkenny, Frank Morgan, Tom Lennon, John Power, Liam Dowling, Paul Phelan, Pat McEvoy and Bosco Brien tried very hard.

Scorers

Limerick: P. Davoren 1-0, D. Marron 1-0, G. Kirby 0-2, B. Stapleton 0-1, G. Ryan 0-1, C. Coughlan 0-1.

Kilkenny: L. Dowling 1-2, W. Purcell 1-0, P. McEvoy 0-1, T. Lennon 0-1.

Teams

Limerick: V. Murnane (Caherline), A. Madden (Bruff), P. Carey (Patrickswell), J. Fitzgerald (Claughaun), G. Hegarty (Old Christians), A. Riordan (Bruff), capt.; A. Cuneen (Claughaun), A. Carmody (Patrickswell), M. Reale (Bruff), T. Byrnes (Old Christians), G. Kirby (Patrickswell), G. Ryan (Claughaun), P. Davoren (Ballybrown), J. O'Neill (Kilfinane), B. Stapleton (Garryspillane).

Subs.: C. Coughlan (Ballybrown) for T. Byrnes, D. Marron (Adare) for J. O'Neill.

Kilkenny: A. McCormack, F. Morgan, B. Brien, W. O'Dwyer, L. O'Brien, T. Lennon, D. Mullen, G. Drennan, P. Phelan, P. McEvoy, J. Power, B. Byrnes, W. Purcell, M. Frisry, L. Dowling.

Subs.: L. Egan for G. Drennan, A. Byrne for W. O'Dwyer, J. Farrell for W. Purcell.

Referee: F. Murphy (Cork).

Senior Soccer:

Three great City goals

By CORMAC LIDDY

Limerick City3
Home Farm0

Three magnificent goals in the last 25 minutes saw Limerick City get off to a winning start to the new league campaign at Rab's yesterday and the goals just about compensated for the woeful earlier play which saw both sides indulge in an old-fashioned kick and rush affair which led to massive boredom for the fair-sized crowd.

The first half in particular was dreadful and there was scarcely an incident of note. It was indeed fortunate for Limerick that a useless side such as Home Farm provided the opposition in the opening game of this sixteen match programme and for 66 minutes the standard of play was of a very low nature indeed.

It must, of course, be borne in mind that Limerick were without Ger Duggan, Johnny Walsh, Fergus McDaid and Joe O'Mahony and when this quartet are ready to resume and hopefully Pat Nolan can again attain full fitness things could be much different especially now that Tommy Gaynor has returned to the fold.

The biggest cheer of the day greeted the result of the minor All-Ireland final replay but within a minute or two of that burst of cheering the crowd were on their toes again to applaud Limerick's opening goal in the 67th minute. And a right good goal it was as Brendan Storan rose magnificently to head home a splendidly placed free on the right by Peter Coyle.

Control

Once in front Limerick then took complete control of the game and Gaynor, with a superb header, almost made it number two. Al Finucane made a magnificent break from almost half way and was just foiled of a shot as goal as a defender managed to put the ball out for a corner and at this stage it seemed inevitable that Limerick would score again.

And sure enough the goal did come and again it was a very well-taken effort with Billy Daly floating in a corner on the right and Des Kennedy headed towards goal but the ball went to Gaynor whose header flew to the net. Daly had come into the Limerick side in the 65th minute in place of the industrious David Hanrahan.

It was all Limerick now and Home Farm sent in two substitutions in the 75th minute to try to salvage something but they were scarcely on the field when Limerick truck goal number three.

Gary Hulmes made progress down the right and a defender seemed to concede a awarded a goal kick which was badly taken by Home Farm 'keeper, Kelly. The ball went to Peter Coyle who made a great run down the right wing and his cross was doubled on by Des Kennedy to blast the ball

Charity Cup:

'Munsters' easy win

Young Munster30
Limerick Counties0

Young Munster had an easier than expected victory over Limerick Counties in the Charity Cup scoring three goals and three tries without reply.

The junior selection provided spirited if limited resistance but had no answer to the senior side when they ran the ball.

Former Munster wing Declan Ahearn was in sparkling form on his debut for the black and amber scoring two tries and making another for Mick Sheehan. His determined runs stretched the Counties defence and with a little luck could have added to his tally.

With a 12-0 lead at the interval Young Munster had the game more or less wrapped up and the second half was more like an exhibition and less of a competitive nature.

The Counties cause was not helped by having to play with 14 players until the 24th minute when Mick Hogan came on to bring their numbers up to full strength.

Young Munster went into the lead in the 7th minute following a line-out. Brendan Ryan, Gerry Casey, Pat Cross and Casey again set up Frank Brosnahan to score under the posts, Casey converting. Declan Tobin hit the upright with a Counties penalty before 'Munsters' increased their lead.

Again Young Munster ran the ball and Gerry Casey sent Ahearn off on a 30 metre run down the left. When tackled



The Limerick team that won the All-Ireland Minor Hurling final in Thurles on Sunday. O.S.



Anthony O'Riordan, captain of the Limerick team is shouldered high off the pitch after the final whistle.

Charity Cup

Shannon held out

By CORMAC LIDDY

Shannon22
Thomond15

THOMOND put in a magnificent second half performance in this entertaining Charity Cup first round tie at Thomond Park on Saturday but Shannon held on for a win that is a little flattering.

Without Mick Moylett and Tomas Healy, who were on tour with Munster, Shannon found themselves without a scrum half a few minutes before the start. However, John Jennings went in to work the scrum and Sonny Kiely began at out-half and did reasonably well in the position.

Shannon went in front in the 10th minute when referee Eoin McCann awarded a penalty try as he deemed that Niall O'Donovan was obstructed when about to score. Terry Fitzgerald tapped over the convert, John Pearce was off the mark with a good penalty attempt for Thomond and Gerry McLoughlin was penalised for obstruction which seemed a harsh decision.

Thomond had a penalty from Pearce in the 24th minute but Shannon increased their lead in the 30th minute. A superb penalty attempt by Fitzgerald from 35 yards and way out on the left came back off the upright. Ger McMahon grabbed the ball and threw out a fine pass to O'Donovan who came through with great speed to go over for a splendid try which Fitzgerald converted.

Thomond almost worked a great try but Gerry McLoughlin was caught offside near his posts and this, if deliberate,

was a good idea as Thomond looked likely to get the try but when McLoughlin was penalised it meant that Danny Coady kicked the penalty to leave Shannon in front, 12-6.

Noel Glynn made a great burst down the left wing but was held up near the line and just on the interval Niall O'Donovan got a try as Shannon pushed one Thomond pack over their own line.

This left the half time score 16-6 and it looked all over for Thomond. However, they came storming back and Pearce cut the deficit with a drop goal and then he landed a penalty to leave only four points between the sides and it was all Thomond at this stage.

Sonny Kiely went to scrum half for Shannon who were under extreme pressure as twice Thomond looked like getting tries but in the end Fitzgerald was once again Shannon's saviour when he kicked two late penalties.

Pearce had a late penalty for Thomond but by then Shannon were safely through to the next round with Young Munster, Old Crescent and Garryowen.

Shannon—T. Fitzgerald, J. Willis, G. Fitzgerald, S. Minihan, S. O'Hanrahan, S. Kiely, J. Jennings, J. McNicholas, N. Glynn, G. McLoughlin, R. Irwin, E. Butler, G. McMahon, N. O'Donovan, G. Moylan.

Thomond—D. Coady, M. Ryan, J. Cusack, T. Hartery, M. Bromell, J. Pearce, D. Cusack, J. Fitzgerald, T. O'Neill, D. Peters, D. Smyth, T. Snott, F. O'Donnell, S. Copley, J. O'Halloran.

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